

SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)  
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## LESSONS LEARNED FROM STARTING SPACE CAFE IN TOKYO

**Abstract**

Bringing groundbreaking space research to an interested public is a lot easier with a drink. This premise guided the original Washington, DC-based International Space University (ISU) Space Cafe and has acted as a guiding light in the first Space Cafe transplant to Tokyo, Japan. Starting in 2011, ISU Space Cafe DC brought an interdisciplinary program of space engineers, scientists, policy makers, lawyers, and more to a diverse audience. Each event features a space expert who gives a presentation about her or his field, research, or mission and the audience has the opportunity to engage in an informal question and answer session immediately after. The DC event attracts a diverse audience of people from all sectors of the space industry and citizen space enthusiasts. The new Space Cafe Tokyo (since December 2016) has continued this tradition while navigating the cultural and local differences of one of Asia's largest cities. The authors will give an update of this new monthly event and provide lessons learned for starting similar events in other locations worldwide.